

RemarksI. Status of claims

Claims 1-23 were previously canceled. Claims 24 and 39 have been amended. Claims 24-39 remain pending.

II. Amendments

The specification has been amended to update the status of 09/698,934.

Claim 24 has been amended to improve its form by adding the word "to".

Claim 39 has been amended to depend from claim 38.

No new matter has been added.

III. Priority

The status of 09/698,934 has been updated.

IV. Obviousness Double Patenting

Claims 24-39 are rejected under the doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1-23 of US 6,652,196.

Claims 24-39 are rejected under the doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1-27 of US 6,168,351.

These rejections have been avoided by the filing of Terminal Disclaimers in the present case which causes the present claims to expire simultaneously with the claims of US 6,652,196 and US 6,168,351. Applicant disagrees with the Examiner's conclusions of obviousness, but is nonetheless filing this terminal disclaimer in order to expedite allowance of this application.

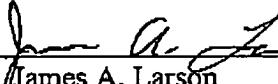
V. Conclusion

Applicant believes that the claims now pending in this patent application are in immediate condition for allowance. Favorable consideration is respectfully requested. If any further questions arise, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicant's representative at the number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

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